

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a thermostable polymerase, a target nucleic acid and a control nucleic acid, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

10. (Original) The composition of Claim 9, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a primer binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the primer binding site of said target nucleic acid or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid.

11. (Original) The composition of Claim 9, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a probe binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid or the complementary strand of the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid.

12. (Original) The composition of Claim 9, further comprising primers for the amplification of said target nucleic acid and primers for the amplification of said control nucleic acid.

13. (Currently Amended) A kit for the amplification of a target nucleic acid comprising an instruction manual, a thermostable polymerase, a target nucleic acid and a control nucleic acid wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at

least 8 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

14. (Original) The kit of Claim 13, further comprising primers for the amplification of said target nucleic acid and primers for the amplification of said control nucleic acid.

15-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 9, wherein the target nucleic acid is a DNA molecule.

21. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 9, wherein the target nucleic acid is an RNA molecule.

22. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 9, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 10 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 10, further comprising a primer that binds to the primer binding site.

25. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 11, further comprising a probe that binds to the probe binding site.

26. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 13, wherein the target nucleic acid is a DNA molecule.

27. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 13, wherein the target nucleic acid is an RNA molecule.

28. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 13, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 10 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 13, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a primer binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the primer binding site of said target nucleic acid or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid.

31. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 30, further comprising a primer that binds to the primer binding site of the target nucleic acid.

32. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 13, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a probe binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid or the complementary strand of the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid.

33. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 32, further comprising a probe that binds to the probe binding site of the target nucleic acid.

34. (New) A composition comprising  
a target nucleic acid and a control nucleic acid, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region; and

primers for the amplification of said target nucleic acid and primers for the amplification of said control nucleic acid.

35. (New) The composition of Claim 34, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a primer binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the primer binding site of said target nucleic acid or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid.

36. (New) The composition of Claim 34, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a probe binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid or the complementary strand of the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid.

37. (New) The composition of claim 34, wherein the target nucleic acid is a DNA molecule.

38. (New) The composition of claim 34, wherein the target nucleic acid is an RNA molecule.

39. (New) The composition of claim 34, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 10 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

40. (New) The composition of claim 34, further comprising a thermostable DNA polymerase.

41. (New) The composition of claim 36, further comprising a probe that binds to the probe binding site.

42. (New) A kit for the amplification of a target nucleic acid comprising:  
an instruction manual;  
a target nucleic acid and a control nucleic acid wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides in length essentially parallel

complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region; and

primers for the amplification of said target nucleic acid and primers for the amplification of said control nucleic acid.

43. (New) The kit of claim 42, wherein the target nucleic acid is a DNA molecule.

44. (New) The kit of claim 42, wherein the target nucleic acid is an RNA molecule.

45. (New) The kit of claim 42, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 10 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

46. (New) The kit of claim 42, further comprising a thermostable DNA polymerase.

47. (New) The kit of claim 42, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a primer binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the primer binding site of said target nucleic acid or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid.

48. (New) The kit of claim 42, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a probe binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid or the complementary strand of the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid.

49. (New) The kit of claim 48, further comprising a probe that binds to the probe binding site of the target nucleic acid.